

Message Text

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15

ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 EA-06 IO-04 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-04 FRB-01 H-01 INR-05

INT-05 L-02 LAB-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 AID-05

CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-01 TAR-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

OMB-01 SWF-01 /086 W

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R 220711Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4339

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY GENEVA

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: IMF, GATT, ETRD, EFIN, AS

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SUBJ: IMF TRADE DECLARATION

REF: STATE 229673

1. EMBASSY APPROACHED CRAWFORD, DIRECTOR GATT SECTION, DEPARTMENT OF OVERSEAS TRADE, AS INSTRUCTED REFTEL WITH FOLLOWING RESULTS.

2. CRAWFORD SAID GOA "HAD NO POSITION" ON DECLARATION AT THIS TIME BUT HE EXPECTED MATTER TO GO TO CABINET "IN A FEW WEEKS". HE INDICATED GOA CONCERNED ABOUT IMF STAFF PAPER SM/74/218 DEFINING AGREED INTERPRETATION OF DECLARATION. CRAWFORD UNDERSTOOD THESE CONCERNS WERE UNDER CONSIDERATION IN IMF AS RESULT OF RECENT BOARD DISCUSSIONS. ESSENCE OF GOA CONCERNS WAS THAT TONE OF PAPER "UNNECESSARILY RIGID" IN THAT IT PRESCRIBED RATHER THAN SUGGESTED PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED.

3. GOA APPARENTLY ALSO NOT ENTIRELY HAPPY WITH PROPOSED ROLE OF GATT DIRECTOR GENERAL (DG) IN IMPLEMENTING DECLARATION. IT DID NOT CONSIDER DG AS HAVING POWER TO MAKE DECISIONS WHICH WOULD BE BINDING ON CONTRACTING PARTIES. THIS, ACCORDING TO CRAWFORD, WOULD "REVERSE INTENDED MASTER-SERVANT ROLE". GOA, IN SHORT, WAS CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT TRADE MEASURES WOULD BE INTERPRETED AS BEING TAKEN FOR B/P REASONS AND WHO WOULD HAVE POWER TO MAKE THIS DECISION. IN FACT, CRAWFORD SAID, GOA REGARDED IDEA OF PRIOR CONSULTATION ON TRADE MEASURES AS "NOT ACCEPTABLE".

4. EMBASSY COMMENT AND ACTION REQUESTED: WE ASSUME FROM REFTEL THAT GOA SUPPORTED C-20 RECOMMENDATION. IF THIS CORRECT, CRAWFORD RESPONSE STRIKES US AS SOMEWHAT HARD-NOSED AND NOT ENTIRELY CONSISTENT WITH GOA ACTION IN C-20. IT OCCURS TO US THIS MAY BE APPROPRIATE ISSUE ON WHICH TO PRESS AUSTRALIANS AT HIGHER LEVEL. AS BASIS FOR DOING SO, IF DESIRED BY DEPARTMENT, EMBASSY WOULD REQUIRE MORE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DETAILED BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON AUSTRALIAN RECORD IN IMF ON THIS MATTER, AND ANY HELPFUL COMMENTS ON POINTS ADVANCED BY CRAWFORD.
GREEN

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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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